

Egremont Planning Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2022

Call to order: 10:06 AM

Present via Zoom:

Planning Board: Jared Kelly, Chair, Mary McGurn, Stephen Lyle, Matthew Bersani, Eddie Regendahl

Citizens in Attendance: Lucinda Vermeulen, BOS, Steve Goodman, Eileen Vining, “James”

Form A's None

Mail: Jan 11 ZBA meeting Continued to Jan 25 at 5PM

Minutes: Tabled till next meeting.

Citizen's Time: None

Updates and discussion

One Stop for Growth - Mary McGurn brought the board up to date on what the platform is, and what their process is for facilitating grants. The focus of this facility is creating affordable housing for MA, with grants for assistance at every step. If the programs in One Stop can't fund an item, they try to refer you to one that will. Funding occurs in Fall 2022, for 2023 expenditure. The Town Affordable Housing Committee is developing their own Expression of Interest.

Jared notified the Board of a scheduled meeting on Monday at 1:30 with Peg McDonough, Mary McGurn, Mary Brazie (BOS) and Fred Gordon of the Housing Committee to coordinate Expressions of Interest, in order to ready the EOI's for the One Stop Portal well before Feb 4 deadline. Ideas for EOI items include additional technical support for writing the bylaws and zoning for the Comprehensive Plan.

Jared made a motion for at least one EOI to be submitted by the PB, as written by himself and Mary McGurn, concerning implementation of the Master Plan. The motion passed 4-0.

Zoning Bylaw Review work - Chair called on Citizen Steve Goodman and PB member Matthew Bersani to give an update on their work. Mr. Goodman has helpfully developed a table listing many instances in the current zoning bylaw possibly in need of revision. The revisions include definitions of terms related to “structure”, setbacks and exactly what structures are excluded from them, as well as the codification and regulation of all such objects, i.e. buildings, dwellings, fences, sheds, tents, towers, flagpoles etc. Mary McGurn reminded us that revisions to bylaw require a town vote. Chair concluded that more work was necessary. Steve Goodman suggested that we define both dwelling and structure, separately. Chair was concerned this would engender more work than would be expeditious. Mary asked if the PB grant EOI might include some of this work. Chair thought yes but as part of a larger scope. Chair wishes to get the definition of structure done before Master Plan zoning bylaw revision work. A discussion about how to organize the bylaws relating to setbacks and structure, both commercial and residential, ensued. Mary McGurn noted there was no definition of consumer establishment in the bylaw, Chair suggested the Master Plan zoning will be the way to address many of these issues. Chair asked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Bersani to collaborate on refining the definition of structure, and related work.

Chair updated Mr. Regendahl, who has been absent, on the Master Plan consultant status.

Fence Bylaw - proposal to be sent around by Mr. Regendahl

Junk Cars – Mr. Lyle described the Stockbridge junk car bylaw, and members suggested possible refinements.

Creation of new forms in the works for the new website.

Mary McGurn described the situation in Richmond, MA regarding the Hollow Fields BNRC Park. Abutters are claiming in a suit that a Special Permit is required and does not exist. Raises the question as to whether Egremont should explicitly allow passive recreation (hiking, biking kayaking) by right on public lands. Chair suggested we monitor the process. Matthew Bersani mentioned the recent acquisition of Bowow Woods as a possible situation where this might come up.

Upcoming Meeting with Emily Innes Associates is scheduled for Tuesday, will be noticed.

Next Meeting set for 10 AM Feb 2, 2022

Meeting Adjourned 12:04